

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Biancina Salimbeni. On September 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, she addressed a long letter to the two, on the love of God, shown above all in the mystery of the Redemption by the Crucifixion, concealed only from the eyes of the lovers of self, who are absorbed in the things of the world, or plunged into the mire of sensuality. While congratulating them on their fidelity to the Church, she urges them to a complete amendment of life.<sup>1</sup> Trincio had already received a similar admonition from the Franciscan tertiary and prophet, Tommaso Unzio, whom he had threatened to burn alive, and who had warned him that he would live as long as the great bell of the Commune remained intact. He was apparently sincerely moved, but had little time for amendment. At the approach of Count Lucio di Lando, one of the condottieri of the league, who was leading a Florentine force against Camerino, the enemies of the Trinci rose; and, on September 28, as the great bell cracked when it sounded the signal to the conspirators, they broke into Trincio's palace, stabbed him to death, and hurled the still quivering body down from the balcony into the piazza below, where it remained for some days unburied. Corrado was at Anagni when this happened. He hurried to Spoleto to await his chance, and thence, on December 6, at the invitation of the people, entered Foligno. There was a general massacre of the enemies of the Trinci, and Corrado was declared lord of the city.

"Keep close to Christ crucified," Catherine had written to the widowed Jacoma d' Este, when the news of Trincio's 'death reached her, " and begin to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul; and bear with true patience the holy trial that He has laid upon you, not for hate, but for the love He bore to the salvation of his soul, upon which He had such mercy that He permitted him to die in the service of Holy Church. God, who loved him with a special love, wishing to ensure his

<sup>1</sup> Letter 253 (194). For the ingratitude of the Pope and the alleged treachery of the Cardinal of Geneva (to which Catherine distantly refers in the letter), cf. the *Anmimo Fiorfnttno*, pp. 337, 338, and Manni's *Crontehetta <F Incerto*, p. 213.